

HCS HB 2488 -- PEACE OFFICERS

SPONSOR: Hill

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on State and Local Government by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill modifies the definition of "reserve peace officer" to include individuals who are paid and those who are not paid. This bill also requires peace officers who receive licenses after August 28, 2020, and who are employed by a political subdivision in Jackson, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties or in St. Louis City must have a minimum of 1,000 hours of basic training at a nationally accredited training facility.

The bill also adds persons serving as reserve officers in Jackson, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties or in St. Louis City to the list of individuals for whom the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission must set the minimum number of hours of basic training for peace officer licensing. Reserve officers serving in St. Louis County must at all times work in the accompaniment of a full-time commissioned officer while performing their enforcement duties. However, the POST Commission may grant a waiver of this requirement upon annual written request by a law enforcement agency.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is meant to correct differences in training between various regions. We need to raise the bar for our metropolitan areas and increase training hours. We want to make sure municipal areas are held accountable, and improving the quality of training in our urban areas is important.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hill and St. Charles County.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.